

# TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS CLUB

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# Trail & Landscape

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## The Ottawa Field ~ Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

### President

Dr. Roger Taylor

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists. THE SHRIKE, a local birding newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See "Coming Events" in this issue

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$10      Sustaining (yearly) \$25  
Family (yearly) \$12      Life (one payment) \$200

Subscription (libraries or other institutions) \$10 per year (Volume)

### **Membership application, correspondence:**

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB  
Box 3264 Postal Station C  
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

### **Information:**

Mrs. Elaine Dickson  
(613) 722-3050 day or evening.  
no calls before 10 a.m. please

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# Welcome, New Members

## Ottawa and Area

Kate A. Archard  
Hélène Barbès  
Jean & Gaetane de Chantal  
Carol A. Fairbrother  
Tim & Barbara Fenton  
Jean & Don Gray  
Sandra J. Gushue  
Joanne M. Haworth  
Odette Larose & family  
Dorothy R. Liddiard  
Jean M. Lillico

Marianne A. Marchand  
Barbara J. Martin  
Bill Morrison  
Mike Mulvey  
Ian Mundell & family  
William A. Napier  
Jerry R. Nelson  
John D. Sankey  
Ronald & Patricia Tremaine  
Lloyd B. Walker & family  
Norman & Josephine Walker

## Other Areas

Dave Elphinstone  
Calgary, Alberta  
Paul Hamilton  
Kitchener, Ontario  
Donald F.T. Hilton  
Lennoxville, Quebec

Dave Lickley  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Chris D. Olsen  
Edmonton, Alberta  
George M. Lukiwski  
Ft. Chipewyan, Alberta  
K. Walton  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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## Call for Nominations for OFNC Council

The Council of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has appointed a Nominating Committee to search out members for next year's Council. Club members can play an important role in this process by submitting nominations to the committee.

These nominations require signatures from the nominator and a seconder, and a statement from the nominee specifying his or her willingness to serve on the Council. It is also useful for the nominator to provide some background information about the person being nominated to give the committee a basis for considering the nominee.

Nominations can be made up to November 1 and should be addressed to:

Diana Laubitz, Chairman,  
Nominating Committee,  
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club,  
Box 3264, Postal Station C,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
K1Y 4J5.

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# Help the Seed-a-thon

Last year the Club spent \$1100 on seed to supply the four Club birdfeeders in the Ottawa District. This is a small price to pay for the enjoyment of many thousands of residents in the Ottawa-Hull area. Still, for a charitable organization, the \$1100 is a significant amount.

The Birds Committee has hatched a plan (pun intended!) that will reduce this drain on our limited resources - the Seed-a-thon. On Sunday, September 13, three parties of Club birders will race around the Ottawa District trying to record as many species of birds as possible. Sponsors are being solicited to pledge so many cents per species. The money collected will be applied to the cost of the bird seed this winter. Any surplus money would be put to other bird-related programs such as the maintenance of feeders and the establishment of a phone-in "Bird Hot-line". In this way, everyone who contributes can see directly his or her donation at work.

If, for example, Team A sees 110 species and you have pledged 5¢ a bird for that team, your donation would amount to \$5.50. That's enough to keep a flock of Evening Grosbeaks in sunflower seeds for several days, not to mention a hoard of Black-capped Chickadees, Nuthatches and even a Flying Squirrel or two.

Here are the teams:

Team A: Bruce DiLabio (729-6267) and Jim Harris (225-2176)  
These two birders are well-known for their abilities at finding rare birds almost anywhere and are pros at running up big single-day totals. Their names will be very familiar to regular readers of Elizabeth LeGeyt's bird column in *The Citizen*.

Team B: Roger Taylor (731-9270) and Dan Brunton (829-7307)  
These guys are not particularly expert in anything and would be a good team to sponsor if you don't wish to donate a lot of money! They are rather good at finding Gray Partridge on Christmas Bird Counts, though.

Team C: Monty Brigham (692-2451) and Bernie Ladouceur (729-9471)  
Bernie is rapidly establishing a record for "most bird counts compiled by a single birder" and Monty is well-known for tape-recording every noise ever made by any bird in the District. One can be sure that whatever they see will be well-recorded.

So there you have the teams. Simply call a member of whichever team (or teams) you wish to sponsor and give him your name, address, phone number and the amount you wish to sponsor them for. Alternately, you can call the Club number (722-3050), and your pledge will be passed to the appropriate team.

Phone in today. September 13 isn't far off.



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# President's Message

The administration of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is the principle responsibility of the Council, a group of about twenty OFNC members which normally meets ten times a year. The Council consists of the officers of the Club (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary), most (usually all) of the chairmen of the eleven OFNC Committees (Awards, Birds, Conservation, Education and Publicity, Excursions and Lectures, Executive, Finance, Macoun Club, Membership, Nominations, Publications), the Business Manager of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and some additional OFNC members. There are no special qualifications for Council membership other than a willingness to participate actively in the Club administration.

Elsewhere in this issue, a Call for Nominations to Council is displayed. If you would like to contribute your services to the Club as a member of Council, as a committee member, or both, please contact the chairman of the Nominations Committee, Diana Laubitz, at 521-7458. Active participation in Club functions can be very rewarding, and the health of the organization depends critically on fresh perspectives.

Members who have had little or no contact with the Council might be surprised at the wide range of activities that are monitored by the Council. The list of committees gives a clue, but each committee can cover a lot of ground. In the spring of this year, topics covered by the Council at a typical meeting ranged from nominations of Honorary Members and the program for the Members' Soirée, on the one hand, to Conservation Committee briefs and OFNC publication policy on the other. At each meeting most committees have important matters to discuss, for example, the OFNC display for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' annual meeting and bird feeder finances, and these all must be aired before the Council.

Of course, throughout the year issues will come up between Council meetings requiring prompt action and decision making. This is where the Executive of the Club plays its most important role. The usual procedure is for the President and Vice-President to share administrative responsibility, each one taking charge of specific areas of Club activity and, of course, consulting each other and other members of the Executive Committee as much as possible. The workload can be become quite heavy, particularly when an emergency develops, for example, the recent search for a new editor for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

The Club has been very fortunate in having a series of very hard-working and enthusiastic people who have served in these capacities. I would like to comment particularly on those with whom I have worked very closely, Roger Foxall (four years as Vice-President and President), Courtney Gilliatt (one year as Vice-President) and Loney Dickson (one and a half years as Vice-President). All of these people were stimulating to work with and put out far more effort than is generally recognized. Very regretfully, at the May meeting, Council accepted Loney's resignation as Vice-President and wished him well in his new job with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Edmonton.

During my tenure as President of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, the Club has become more visible to the public, largely because of the immense effort put out by the Conservation Committee. Coincident with this, the Club has expanded its activities in other areas, for example, Special Publications and re-organization of bird censuses. The net result of these very commendable efforts has been to increase the workload of the Club Executive. I cannot express enough admiration for the efforts of Loney Dickson in his handling of increased responsibilities in addition to being Chairman of the Conservation Committee and secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee formed to prepare a report on Club publications. He was absolutely invaluable, and we shall all look forward to the day he returns to Ottawa and we can get him back on the Council.

Very fortunately, Dan Brunton has taken over Loney's position and is doing a similarly admirable job. But it is clear that the Club is now asking too much of its Executive members to carry on with the present level of activity. For this reason it is felt that the Club should return to the system of two Vice-Presidents so that the workload can be more equitably shared. This requires changes to the Constitution; consequently suitable proposed motions will be published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* for consideration at the next Annual Business Meeting. Assuming that the membership supports the proposed changes, the Club administration will be strengthened and be able to carry on in an effective manner. But your active support, on committees, on publications and on the Council, is still needed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Roger Taylor

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# Members' Soirée

Peter Hall

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club borrowed a page out of its own history with the Members' Soirée held in April. Back at the turn of the century, one of the favourite activities of the still young Club was an evening out for members to mingle and get to know one another better. It was a time to exchange natural history notes, boast of rare and unusual sightings, honour outstanding members and, above all else, have a good time.

The April Soirée shows that times don't change all that much, except for the mode of dress and the modern exhibits. About 115 members attended this version of something old with a new twist held at the RA Centre on Riverside Drive. It replaced the more formal annual banquet that is normally held every spring.

The added informality appeared to be appreciated by those present. The wine and cheese supplied by the RA Centre disappeared at a steady rate. And to help get the mingling off on the right foot, the Excursions and Lectures Committee organized thought-provoking exhibits. Club members were asked to show off their natural history art, photos and collections, and they came through with flying colours.

Many of the Club's established artists put together an outstanding display of their work - Aleta Karstad, Laura Kingsbury, Anne Hanes, Grace Haney, Ellaine Dickson, Jacques Cantin, Pat Cramb-Osler, Brenda Carter, Marc Fournier and Dorothy Brulac.

A number of talented nature photographers displayed their versatility in enlarged colour prints ranging in subjects from tiny mushrooms to landscapes. Photos were supplied by Fran Goodspeed, Gerhard Lehmann, Karin Lehmann, Pat Cramb-Osler, Andrew McFarlane, Roy Kamaguchi and George McGee. (Everyone was delighted to see George mingling as usual with the best of them during the evening). Many Club photographers also submitted slides for exhibition, and there was always a large crowd gathered around the projector during the evening.

In addition to the art and photography, five special displays were arranged. The Bird Committee's exhibit outlined its recent activities. The newly formed butterfly group exhibited mounted specimens, live cocoons and photos of local lepidoptera. The Conservation Committee highlighted its work in recent years with maps and reports.





*A view of some of the exhibits by members of the Macoun Field Club*



*Frank Bell, Excursions & Lectures Chairman, discusses Macoun Club art exhibits with award judge Aleta Karsted.*

*photos by Chris Schwarzkogler-Taylor*

Two displays arranged by individual Club members attracted a great deal of attention. Fenja Brodo's exhibit on crane flies introduced many members for the first time to the number and variety of these insects in the Ottawa area. Bill Dore set up a fascinating display to show that the red juice of Hoary Puccoon (from The Sand Hills) is oil-soluble while other red vegetable juices are water-soluble, suggesting that Indians used the juice from Puccoon dissolved in bear grease for body ornamentation.

As usual the Macoun Club played a prominent role in making the evening a success. Macouners worked hard to put together individual and group displays illustrating the wide range of activities carried on by the Club. To encourage these efforts, awards were presented by the Excursions and Lectures Committee to Macoun members with the most outstanding display in three categories - photography, art and collections. Judges for the displays were, respectively, George Christie, Ernie Brodo and Aleta Karstad.

For photography, the award went to Merrick Malozzi for his slide presentation. The awards for collections and art were divided up among the senior, intermediate and junior categories. The senior award winner for art was Daphne McCormick, with Rosalind Chaundy receiving an honourable mention. Michael Manga had the award-winning art in the intermediates with Ian Griffin given an honourable mention. The junior art award went to Peter Manga with an honourable mention going to David Dean.

The collections awards went to Cathy Lambert of the Seniors for her display on the Brandy Cove transit, to Diana Hallett of the intermediates for her mineral display, and to Steve Tyrie of the juniors for his exhibit on dinosaurs. Whoever the individual award winners were, the real winners were all the Soirée participants who got to take part in the infectious enthusiasm of the Macoun Club members.

To top off the evening, new honorary members were announced. This year, two long-standing and most distinguished members, Sheila Thomson and Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, were presented with honorary memberships. (For further details and background on Sheila and Louise see page 177.)

As the Club has grown in size over the years there has arisen the need to help members, both older and new, find ways to meet and exchange ideas and have fun doing it. The Soirée worked for Club members in the early days, and if April's Soirée was any indication, it appears to be working again.

The Excursions and Lectures Committee would like to hear members' reactions to the Soirée. Most of all, let the Committee know if you would like it to be repeated. Phone Frank Bell at 521-8046 with your comments.

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# New Honorary Members

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## LOUISE DE KIRILINE LAWRENCE

Louise de Kiriline Lawrence exemplifies the standard of excellence that may be achieved by a non-professional in the field on natural history.

She has combined an intense interest in birds and bird behaviour, keen powers of observation and a talent for communicating her experiences, to produce a number of outstanding publications in natural history. Her many published works include the scientific paper *A Comparative Life-History Study of Four Species of Woodpeckers* and the award-winning book *The Lovely and Wild*.

Louise came to Canada in the 1920s from her native Sweden. She has lived for the past forty years in a log home she and her husband built on the shores of Pimisi Bay, a part of the Mattawa River between northern and southern Ontario. Her wilderness home has given her a unique opportunity for first-hand observation of the animals that she loves and portrays so vividly in her writing.

Louise's studies in bird behaviour have earned her the respect of the scientific community. Her nature writings have won well-deserved acclaim from naturalists. Many honours have come her way: elective membership in the American Ornithologists' Union, the John Burroughs Medal for distinguished natural history writing, the Frank H. Kortwright Award for outdoor writing, the Charles G.D. Roberts Special Award from the Canadian Authors' Association, an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Laurentian University. She has been a member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club since 1970.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to field studies in ornithology, and in recognition of her achievements as a most distinguished author of natural history books and articles, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is pleased to confer Honorary Membership on Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.

Sheila M. Thomson and Peter Hall

## SHEILA THOMSON

If I were granted the power to give a gift to each community in Canada, I would wish each of them a Sheila Thomson. As you will see, the Ottawa Community owes Sheila a lot, but it is her thirty-seven years of association with The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club that command our attention here.

From the time she joined in 1944, Sheila has been one of The OFNC's most active participants and supporters, as a speaker and as an active council member. In 1971 and 1972, Sheila served the Club as a very effective President, continuing and expanding the Club's awareness of and activity in local conservation issues. She was a member of the editorial committee of *Trail & Landscape* from 1967 to 1970 and contributed many articles to that journal. She has also contributed many articles to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* especially on the subject of mushrooms.

Sheila's expertise in mycology began in the 1950s when she worked in the Department of Agriculture's Mycology Group with the late Dr. Walton Groves. With Dr. Groves she published several papers in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* dealing with the fungi of northern Canada. She continued her study of mushrooms with the well-known American mycologist, Alexander H. Smith, at the University of Michigan. After a twenty-year interlude for raising a family, Sheila returned to the Department of Agriculture and spent another eight years as a curatorial and research assistant. Her duties included editing the series *Fungi Canadenses* and participating in a mycological survey of St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

Together with her husband Harry, a keen naturalist and skilled outdoorsman in his own right, Sheila has hosted many an outdoor adventure at the Thomson cabin, for many years in Gatinneau Park and more recently near Calabogie. The Macoun Field Club, The OFNC's younger associate, has been a special benefactor of this generosity. Her great interest in the young naturalists of the Macoun Club is well known and has taken form in numerous tangible ways.

It is Sheila's efforts and accomplishments in the field of conservation that really make her stand out from the pack. In 1969, with rumours flying about recommendations for massive developments in Gatineau Park, Sheila virtually took on the entire National Capital Commission. After carefully "doing her homework" on the political history of the park and with her vast knowledge of its natural features, she was able not only to handle admirably the NCC's Director of Parks and Grounds (see T&L 3: 102-109, 1969) but also to confront successfully the NCC chairman of the day, Douglas Fullerton, in face-to-face meetings. She was then instrumental in organizing an Ottawa-Hull chapter of the National and Provincial Parks Association and served on its council during its successful campaign to make the



NCC more aware of Gatineau Park's value as a semi-wilderness area. She can claim a very significant portion of the credit for the NCC's acceptance of an ecologically sound management policy in its new Master Plan.

What makes Sheila so successful in these endeavours is not simply her willingness to dig out facts and her drive to lay them before the public. She has a rare depth of understanding, a love of people and a gift for dealing with them (whether they be friend or potential adversary), and a warmth and sincerity that charm all who meet her. It is, therefore, not only for her service to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club that The OFNC council has voted to make her an honorary member, but for her service to the Ottawa community as a whole.

Irwin M. Brodo



*Sheila Thomson received her silver honorary member's pin from President Roger Taylor at the April Soirée. Unfortunately, Louise de Kiriline Lawrence was not notified in time to make the trip to the Soirée.*

photo by Chris Schwarzkogler-Taylor



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# Recent Bird Sightings

Robert A. Bracken

Weather patterns from year to year are never the same; consequently each bird migration tends to be unique. Similarities over the years can always be drawn, but precedents are frequent, and in the world of birds precedents are always interesting and sometimes very exciting.

February's balmy weather persisted into March, compelling many birds to move north earlier than usual. This trend continued right through April, producing no less than a dozen early records. May was very wet, bringing new birds in and keeping others here.

If the weather is never consistent, there is something else that certainly is - the mass exodus or spring migration of Ottawa's avid birders to southern Ontario. This year, just about all of us were travelling for one bird or another sometime during May, and for good reasons: a Spotted Redshank at Peterborough, a Sage Thrasher at Rondeau, a Hermit Warbler at Point Pelee and the usual sprinkling of other rarities.

But Ottawa had its attractions too. Rarities in Ottawa this spring were well represented despite our birders' apparent disloyalty. Some of the highlights were Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Eurasian Widgeon, Sandhill Crane, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, two Ruffs, Ottawa's first American Avocet, Prairie Warbler, and the second acceptable record of Orchard Oriole. It was a good spring.

There were average numbers of loons and grebes in the period. A Common Loon on the first of March was exceptionally early. Twenty-five Red-necked Grebes and 35 Horned Grebes on April 9 were good numbers.

The Great Egret is now a regular late spring transient to Ottawa, so one on May 17 was not surprising. Another egret, probably a Great, was seen on the Spring Bird Count on May 24. A Snowy Egret at Green Creek on May 28 is the fourth record for Ottawa but only the second that stayed long enough for other birders to see. There was also a report of a Little Blue Heron on May 15 from the Thurso area.

Canada Geese moved through in average numbers but did not concentrate abundantly at traditional staging areas. Brant were almost missed entirely as they flew overhead in the darkness of late May. Two birds lingered along the Ottawa River at the end



*American Avocet*  
by Robert A. Bracken

of the month. A female Eurasian Widgeon was found at Shirleys Bay on March 28. A Northern Shoveller on the next day was an early record.

The hawk migration was accented by an adult Bald Eagle on March 22 and three Golden Eagles in April. After an incredible winter for Gyrfalcons, it's not shocking that there were two sightings in March. Just one Peregrine Falcon was reported, perhaps one of the released birds?

A Sandhill Crane flying over Rockcliffe on the Spring Bird Count was certainly one of the highlights. Yellow Rails in Ottawa can now be taken for granted. Despite the high water levels in the Richmond Fen, three birds were heard on the count, and at least two birds were calling the first week of July. They are very likely nesting here. An American Coot on March 29 is an early record.

A Lesser Golden Plover near Arnprior on April 3 was, needless to say, very early; there are only three spring records for Ottawa. A Solitary Sandpiper on April 16 is yet another record early date. The first record was in 1977, but Ruffs from Europe are now regular drifters to Ottawa. The two birds on May 15 are the fifth and sixth records.

The man, Roger Foxall, and the place, Green Creek sewage lagoons, is a combination which has proven itself in the past and on May 14 did it again, producing an American Avocet from the

west. A first record for Ottawa, it has been anticipated by birders for some time. Way to go, Roger!

Other shorebirds included the second May record of Stilt Sandpiper (Green Creek sewage lagoons on May 15), Marbled Godwit (Shirleys Bay on May 22) and the third spring record for Hudsonian Godwit (Richmond sewage lagoons on May 23).

The month of March saw the emergence of an ambitious project organized by Bernie Ladouceur, the 1981 March Owl Count. It was a great success, both in participation and results. Eight species of owls were recorded in unprecedented numbers, but I had better let Bernie tell you about it. (See page 199.) A Snowy Owl on May 23 was very late.

Swallows are one of the first groups of passerines to arrive in the spring. Early arrival dates include a Barn Swallow on March 30, a Bank Swallow on April 9, Cliff and Rough-winged Swallows on April 14, and a Purple Martin on April 4.

Common Ravens nested again along the Gatineau escarpment and could be seen from Mountain Road. A Gray Jay on the Spring Count is one of few late spring records.

There were four Yellow-throated Vireos in May. The warblers gave a good showing in May, but the birdwatchers were away, most of them at Point Pelee. A Pine Warbler on April 16 was the earliest ever, and there were four on April 18.

The rarity of the Spring Count was the Orchard Oriole found singing at Constance Bay by Bruce DiLabio.

A late Hoary Redpoll was found on March 28, and the latest ever was a surprise on April 25.

The birds of spring 1981 were a mixture of early dates and late dates, highlighted by a first record and numerous significant sightings. What will happen next spring? More of the same or something different? Any bets?

If you want a more detailed account of the bird happenings in the Ottawa District, subscribe to *The Shrike*. This bimonthly bulletin summarizes the bird observations for the period in two ways. The first consists of a cell graph depicting, for every species observed, the total number seen on each day. This enables you to see at a glance the relative frequency of occurrence of every species reported. The second summary gives more detailed data in tabular form. In addition, there is a species by species discussion and birdfinding tips for the next two-month period.

*The Shrike* is available for only \$3.00 per year from the Club address (on the inside front cover).

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# Dutch Elm Disease: Some Features

Bill Gummer

This is not intended to be a polished scientific article on Dutch Elm Disease, but some chronological information may be of interest in leading up to the features that I wish to discuss.

Dutch Elm Disease, responsible for so many dead elms throughout this part of Canada, is due to a fungus, *Ceratocystis ulmi* (Buism.) C. Moreau, that was first recognized in the Netherlands and northern France in 1919. It was introduced, apparently from southeast Asia, late in the nineteenth century. It was first reported in North America in Ohio in 1930, and in New Jersey in 1932, as the result of importation of infected wood. First Canadian identification was in 1944, in Quebec, but it was probably there some years before then following its assumed entry at Sorel. It had spread to Ontario from Quebec by 1946, and from the United States at Windsor and Niagara by 1950. It was reported in New Brunswick (entering from Maine) in 1957, in Nova Scotia in 1969, and in Prince Edward Island in 1979. In Manitoba, still untouched in the late 1960s, the disease was first diagnosed in 1975, and it now infests a wide area in the south-central part of the province. Newfoundland and Saskatchewan still appear to be free of the disease.

The disease has spread from its sources of infection at rates of thousands of square kilometres per year. The primary vectors, but not the only ones, are two elm bark beetles. One is native to Canada: *Hylogopinus rufipes* (Eichh.); the other was introduced from Europe: *Scolytus multistriatus* (Marsh). The European beetle was first identified in the United States in Boston in 1909, appeared near Windsor in 1948, and was not reported in Manitoba before 1979. In fact, a report in 1967 stated that the European beetle was still known in Canada only in southern Ontario, although at that time, Dutch Elm Disease covered twice as much area in Ontario, most of the range of White Elm in Quebec, and a large piece of New Brunswick. Thus the fungus and the European beetle did not come to North America together, nor have they necessarily moved together.

The fungus has found the native bark beetle to be a suitable carrier but is not yet distributed throughout the range of that beetle, perhaps because of climatic variations. The European beetle is presumably still extending its range.

The habits and seasonal histories of the two beetles show



*Figure 1. Close-up view of egg gallery and radiating exit grooves of larvae of European bark beetle on a section of dead elm which is 6 cm in diameter. The wide grooves on the left were made by a different insect and are later than the symmetrical grooves.*  
photo by Bill Gummer



*Figure 2. Section of dead elm showing a number of egg galleries and larval grooves. This particular piece of wood came from near Guelph.*  
photo by Dave Head



several pronounced differences. One of these is the manner in which the egg galleries are constructed. The upper photograph illustrates the habit of the European beetle; the egg gallery has been excavated by the small female parallel to the wood grain in the outer wood surface just below the bark. The hatched larvae eat their way out first at right angles - across the grain - and then more or less radically from the gallery, growing as they go and thus producing expanding grooves in the wood. The overall pattern may be remarkably symmetrical.

The lower picture shows the section of dead elm converted into a desk-top pencil holder. Seventeen egg galleries of the European beetle, and their surrounding larval grooves, can be counted on this section, which stands about 17 cm high and is about 6 cm in diameter. It is curious what a variation in size there is, even in this limited number of sites. The largest is 4.5 cm wide and 7 cm long; the smallest is 2.75 x 3.5 cm. Judging by the widths of the grooves, I conclude the larvae at the stage of pupation were proportionately tinier in the latter. There is one tiny scar, 1.5 x 0.7 cm, with the same general pattern but perhaps not made by the Dutch beetle. The variation in larval size may be due to the eggs having been laid either in spring or in autumn, with the resulting size differences because of contrasted growing seasons.

In the specimen pictured the sites are spaced so that competition between larvae from neighbouring galleries was minimal, . but I have seen other examples where two or more galleries were extremely close.

Seventeen galleries is not very many, but picture most of the tree covered to the same degree by bark beetle operations, and then picture all the dead elms that you have seen. That's a lot of eggs.

Now, to answer the question that obviously was raised by the earlier reference to habit differences. All the scars on this specimen appear to relate to the European beetle. The egg gallery of the Canadian elm bark beetle is dug as a flat "vee" across the wood grain, and larvae eat their way out, up and down, parallel to the grain, in a much less symmetrical fashion.

#### *Useful References*

Canada Department of Forestry and Rural Development. 1967. *Dutch Elm Disease*.

Environment Canada. *Fact Sheet - Dutch Elm Disease*.

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# The Year of the Migrants

Ross Layberry

In years to come, anyone studying the records of butterflies in the Ottawa area will be sure to agree that 1981 was a very unusual year for butterflies. Practically all our resident species are present in much lower numbers than normal, presumably due to unusual local weather conditions last winter and spring. Even the ubiquitous Pearly Crescent and European Skipper are affected, although their numbers usually exceed those of all other butterflies combined.

In great contrast is the abundance of all the migrant species. The Monarchs started to arrive in early June and already (late June) are present in numbers exceeding those usually seen in late summer. Both the Painted Lady and the American Painted Lady are here in above average numbers, and will probably be quite common by late summer when the offspring of these early arrivals reaches maturity.

The most notable migrant, however, is the Red Admiral, which has been common all over the area since the beginning of May. (By way of comparison, I saw only three Red Admirals in the whole of last year.) There is hardly a patch of Stinging Nettle or Wood Nettle which has escaped the attentions of the females. The distinctive folded-leaf nests of the larvae are on practically every plant, and by the time you read this the adults from these larvae will be covering the surviving plants with millions more eggs. Unless the population of parasites rises to meet the occasion, the numbers of Red Admirals could easily rival those of the Common Sulphur in August and September.

In addition, three other rare migrant species have already been taken: the first Little Sulphur since 1968, the first Buckeye since 1966 (both taken by Ian Jones), and a Variegated Fritillary, taken by Peter Hall just north of our area, the first ever near Ottawa. On the rare occasions in the past when the first two species have been seen, it has been in late summer. This year, however, they are early enough that there is a possibility that there will be enough time for a second generation to develop, so that many people will have a chance to see these rare and beautiful butterflies. There is no doubt that 1981 will be remembered for a long time as the year of the migrants.

*Stop-press News: As of late July, about thirty newly-emerged Buckeyes, off-spring of a migrating female, have been seen in one very small area near South March.*

# Council Report

Bill Gummer

Loney Dickson has resigned as Vice-President of the Club and has left Ottawa for Edmonton to take up a post with the Canadian Wildlife Service. Loney has been a staunch supporter and, indeed, a prime mover of recent Club conservation efforts, and his knowledge and enthusiasm will be quickly missed. Readers of *Trail & Landscape* will know him for his thorough reports on natural areas in the Ottawa District: Stillwater Creek, Rockcliffe Airbase Woods and Ottawa Beach. Stephen Darbyshire has continued this series, based on their joint work for the National Capital Commission. Loney was also instrumental in organizing the new study groups which are now operating at peak activity. He has been co-editor (with Roger Taylor) of the new, enlarged and revitalized Club bulletin on bird observations, *The Shrike*.

At the Council meeting in May, the Council appointed Dan Brunton as Vice-President to replace Loney for the remainder of the year. Dan's name will also be familiar to OFNC members as the author of numerous papers and notes on many aspects of nature in *Trail & Landscape* and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

Stephen Gawn has replaced Loney as chairman of the Conservation Committee. *Trail & Landscape* readers will recognize Stephen as the author of *Birding at Shirleys Bay* and of some segments of the *Recent Bird Sightings* series.

The Council has agreed that calls from visitors seeking information on birding in the Ottawa District should be referred to Dan Brunton, the Chairman of the Birds Committee. This committee has decided that next year there will be another Owl Census, a Spring Count and this fall a "Seed-a-thon" designed to collect funds for support of bird feeders. There will be no Fall Count this year.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club exchanges publications (chiefly *Trail & Landscape*) with a few other nature clubs in Canada and elsewhere. The Council agreed that the Corresponding Secretary should be designated to receive the incoming publications on behalf of the Club and advise members of what is available. He will retain the publications, circulating if possible on request, and will also be responsible for communicating with other clubs in this regard.

# Conservation Activities

Joyce Reddoch

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## REGIONAL LAND ACQUISITION BUDGET

Last spring, we members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club worked together again to inform Regional Councillors of our strong concern for the protection of the Natural Environment Areas in Ottawa-Carleton, and, in particular, for their continued acquisition. On April 8, the Regional Council reconsidered its devastating earlier vote. Led by Councillor Brian Bourns of the City of Ottawa, a majority agreed to carry over \$300,000 from last year's budget and to add up to \$500,000 for buying land in 1981. This amount was not as much as originally proposed, but it will at least allow the acquisition program to proceed.

In the last several years, the Region has bought more than 300 hectares in the Carp Hills, as well as continuing its acquisition program in the Marlborough Forest. Only by bringing Natural Environment Areas into public ownership might we begin to be assured of their protection. (Read Dan Brunton's account of the South March Highlands situation on the following pages for the all-too-frequently threatened alternative.) We must always be ready to express our support for Natural Environment Areas to reluctant Regional Councillors, and we must always be diligent in making sure the land is managed properly once it has been acquired.

On the subject of management of Natural Environment Areas, the Region is setting up an Advisory Committee to report to its Planning Committee "on matters relating to the management of the Marlborough Forest". Land in the Marlborough Forest is being managed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, which is currently revising its management plan prepared in 1975 and now recognized as being woefully out-of-date.

Stephen Darbyshire will be representing naturalists' interests on the eleven-member committee for a two-year term. Advisory committees for other Natural Environment Areas will be constituted when the Region has assembled most of the land in them.

## ACQUISITION PROJECT FOR THE MER BLEUE PEAT BOG

Still on the subject of buying significant natural areas and ensuring responsible management of them, Xerox Canada Inc. and the Nature Conservancy of Canada have announced a joint project with the National Capital Commission to preserve and



protect the 2,000-hectare Mer Bleue peat bog. The National Capital Commission already owns 75% of the bog, and land acquired under this project will be transferred to the Commission for management as part of its Mer Bleue Conservation Area. One property has been purchased, and adjacent parcels are being negotiated. Some of the purchase money came from the donors to the now-defunct Niven's Woods Conservancy who indicated their willingness to transfer their donations to this new project. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was among the donors who did this. The Club also sent a letter to the Nature Conservancy of Canada commending it for its role in this important work.

## A FIRST STEP TOWARD GUARDING OUR NATIVE FLORA

Continuing with the good news - the National Capital Commission launched a program this spring to stop the harvesting of Wild Leek (*Allium tricoccum*) in Gatineau Park. The population of Wild Leek in the park is being threatened by large-scale digging of the plants. Under the National Capital Act it is illegal to pick or dig up any plant on any Commission property, but this is the first time the Commission has indicated its intentions to enforce the Act.

The Ottawa-Field-Naturalists' Club has written to the Chairman of the National Capital Commission congratulating the Commission for taking this action to reduce the exploitation of the park's floral resources and urging it to extend its actions to Greenbelt lands.

The Club has also written to the appropriate ministries in Ontario and Quebec pointing out to them the National Capital Commission's initiative. We ask the provinces why they do not have wildflower protection acts similar to those of the adjoining states of Michigan and New York for more wide-spread protection of our native flora.

## OTHER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Club is able to respond to requests for input on a variety of environmental matters in Eastern Ontario and across the province based on the expertise and knowledge of Conservation Committee members. This year the Club has commented on the National Capital Commission's management plan for the Greenbelt, the City of Ottawa's concept plan for the land between Uplands Airport and the Rideau River, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' plan for Fitzroy Provincial Park, its management plan for Torbolton Forest (The Sand Hills), and its Strategic Land Use Plan for Northwestern Ontario. A similar plan for southern Ontario is pending. The Point Pelee Management Plan and Pukaskwa National Park Draft Management Plan were also the subject of Club communications. Details on the Club's responses may be obtained from the Conservation Committee Secretary, Paul Catling (996-1665).



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# South March Highlands

When is a Natural Environment Area NOT a Natural Environment Area?

Daniel F. Brunton  
OFNC Vice-President

The answer to the question posed in the subtitle of this piece is, unfortunately, whenever Regional politicians wish it! We have known all along that the protection afforded to significant natural areas in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton was weak at best. The South March Highlands issue brought that message to us again in no uncertain terms.

Let me fill you in.

The Ottawa-Carleton Official Plan designates 38 Natural Environment Areas. This system of natural areas represents a large proportion of the important life sciences processes and features in our Region and was achieved through years of keen effort by many persons. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, and members Joyce and Allan Reddoch in particular, played a vital role in the development of the system. Our inventory work, proposals and lobbying were directly responsible for much of it.

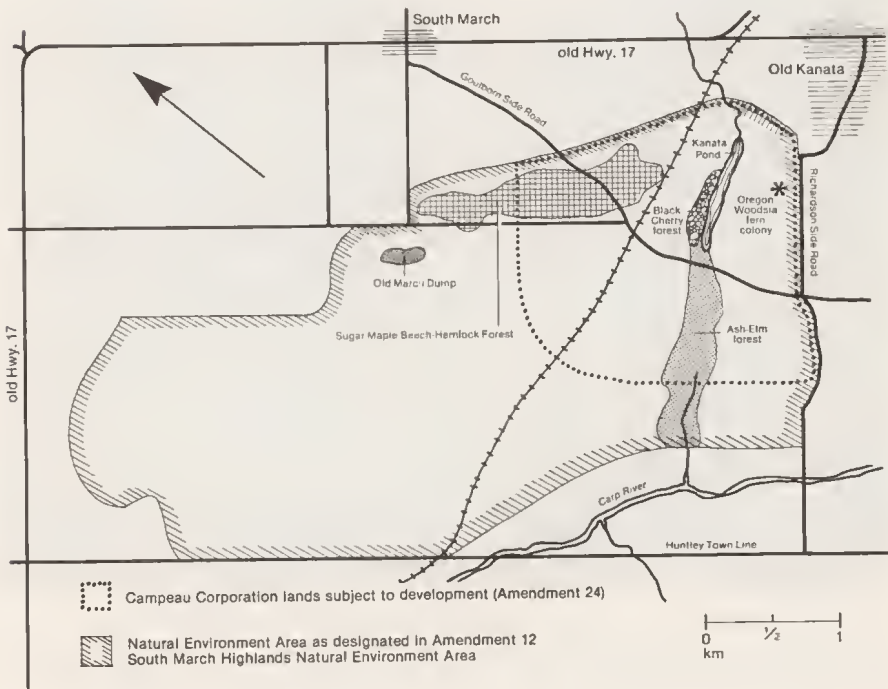
In any event, the Natural Environment Areas have been controversial since their establishment. Some local politicians and many land developers see them as impediments to progress (or is it their interests?) in the Region. The pressure of these interests and some landowners have lead to a variety of alterations to the basic package. Not until the South March Highlands question arose have we been faced with the elimination of a major portion of a major Natural Environment Area.

Several years ago Campeau Corporation petitioned the Regional government to have the southern one-third of this area rezoned for urban housing - construction that would add up to 20,000 people to Kanata, this despite the fact that Campeau Corporation criticized a fellow developer for attempting a similar rezoning, saying that plenty of land was presently available for new housing construction under existing zoning arrangements! The City of Kanata quickly fell into line (20,000 people add more to the tax base than "a bunch of rare ferns and chipmunks!"), and the issue went before the Planning Committee of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton early in 1981. The Regional planning *staff* conducted a thorough evaluation of the proposal and on the basis of policy, environmental and economic conflicts, rejected it. With little apparent concern for the professional conclus-

ions of an excellent and objective study by its own staff, the Regional Planning Committee quickly over-ruled these objectives and approved the proposal. The planning staff was instructed to revise its report in light of these new "realities". The revisions were brought before the Planning Committee on April 28, 1981, as proposed Amendment 24.

We were there too, although our efforts were rather futile. It was evident that our elected representatives were tired of hearing about conservation concerns and had made up their minds before the meeting was even called to order. Representatives of the National and Provincial Parks Association and the Canadian Nature Federation were there too; both organizations had submitted written presentations of support for the Natural Environment Area. A presentation was developed by the Conservation Committee of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and by President Roger Taylor. I presented it on behalf of the Club.

We pointed out that the environmental inventory of the proposal commissioned by Campeau Corporation was woefully inadequate. The consultants clearly were not familiar enough with the natural values of the Ottawa District or the literature and available resources concerning them. They had contacted several OFNC members and had received useful data that way. Beyond that



they illustrated little new environmental information of real significance. We argued that this incompleteness made it impossible to provide a sound basis for environmental decision-making. We also raised our concern for the precedent being established by the removal of these lands from the Natural Environment Area system, the need for a proper inventory of *all* Regional Natural Environmental Areas, and our concern that the Regional planning staff, which was best able to make such a decision (and is paid by the people of Ottawa-Carleton to do so), was over-ruled for political purposes.

Campeau Corporation was clearly concerned by our presentation, but could only rebutt it by assuring the Planning Committee that it had done the very best it could. (We didn't question that; even Campeau Corporation's best, however, cannot be good enough if it doesn't have a full deck to work with.)

The Planning Committee listened politely, asked a number of reasonable questions, were apparently impressed by our arguments and presentation, and then went along on its predetermined path.

So what's left? The proposal requires Ontario Municipal Board approval, and there may be a public hearing at that level. If it is not turned back at the OMB, we can expect swimming pools and Weeping Willows where once Kanata Pond and a Black Cherry forest stood!

What are the losses? Many. Although two urban "conservation areas" (one of questionable value) would be retained, the ambiguity of that classification is worrisome. This is particularly the case when we consider the remark of the Mayor of Kanata, Maryanne Wilkinson (who is also chairperson of the Planning Committee!), that a golf course could be considered compatible in conservation areas under some circumstances! We also lose an area that was originally designated as much for its expected (potential) values as its known resources - and before those potentials have been assessed. We might never know what was there in total. We know we'll lose an outstanding example of Black Cherry forest, complete with Showy Orchis, and the only known colony of the fern Oregon Woodsia in Eastern Ontario.

The only bright spot is that the Regionally significant Maple-Beech-Hemlock forest in the area, containing nationally and provincially significant flora such as Narrow-leaved Spleenwort and Goldie's Fern, would remain, assuming Kanata can provide adequate protection for it.

The whole business is a bit scary. If a large developer is able to have alterations made to the most sensitive type of zone in the Region with relatively little trouble - and over the objections of the Regional planning staff - is the Plan all that effective a management tool? Apparently not. Regional planning policies, it seems, become the domain of whoever has the most

money and/or can make the loudest noise. So much for the Plan. So much for the planners! This is very alarming, if for no other reason than the waste of public funds.

It is difficult to identify a particular villain in all this. Campeau Corporation has, within its ability to see the need, attempted to compromise and probably did do the best job it could. But if the integrity of the Official Plan is that weak, can developers think that designations really mean anything? And if an inadequate environmental inventory is acceptable by Regional Council, can the developer be blamed for also accepting it? Since Regional planning staff was not listened to, the decision, politically and technically, is up to Regional Council. If Regional politicians give in so easily to the lobby of interest groups in the name of short-term economic expediency, then it is up to the public. The people of Ottawa-Carleton will have to express to their representatives - in clear terms - that we value our Official Plan more than this.

The process is the villain because it is weak and easily manipulated. For that we all - developers, politicians, naturalists, the public, planners - must share the blame for allowing it to become so.



*This regionally-significant maple-beech-hemlock forest straddling the Goulbourn Side Road would remain as a "conservation area" surrounded by urban development.*

photo by Joyce Reddoch



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# The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Robert Legget

Much of the activity of members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club - as reflected so well in *Trail & Landscape* - is carried out in the watershed of the Rideau River, the river valley and those of its tributaries. OFNC members will therefore be anxious to see that the natural features of the Rideau Valley are well conserved, to ensure their continued enjoyment and use. It is the purpose of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to ensure that this is done.

The Authority is one of almost forty such conservation agencies in Ontario, four in the northern part of the province, the remainder covering almost all the southern part of Ontario. All are responsible for the preservation and proper use of complete *watersheds*, irrespective of political boundaries. To naturalists, such control is an obvious and sensible way of treating the problems of rivers. Politically, however, it is a concept that is still gaining acceptance only very slowly. The Ontario river authorities have rightly achieved international fame among conservationists and yet are still virtually unknown in the province except by those who have special interest in their work.

Conservation authorities got their start as the Second World War drew to its close, when attention began to be directed towards the problems of post-war reconstruction. Useful pioneer "spade-work" had prepared the ground, notably a survey of the natural resources of King Township (north of Toronto) initiated by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1938, and by the good work of the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association. These two bodies arranged the "Guelph Conference" of 1941, and this in turn led to a larger conference held in London in October 1944. At this meeting a strong resolution was passed unanimously, calling on the Government of Ontario to establish a conservation authority for the province.

Action followed quickly, a Conservation Branch of the (new) Department of Planning and Development being established one month later. A.H. Richardson, a forester, was called upon to direct the new activity. Just before his death in 1971, Mr. Richardson completed the writing of a book recording these early developments and summarising the subsequent growth of the conservation authorities established for separate river valleys. It was published in 1974 by the University of Toronto Press. *Conservation by the People: the history of the conservation movement in Ontario to 1970* is the cumbersome but accurate



title. All those interested in conservation will find the book encouraging and interesting reading; they will see what a leading part naturalists have played in this significant work.

Our own Rideau Valley Conservation Authority was one of the last to get going, for a variety of reasons. It was, however, finally established on 31 March 1966. Its achievements in its first fifteen years of service have been notable. The Authority consists of representatives of all the municipalities which lie, in whole or in part, within the watershed - one for each township and town and seventeen from Ottawa-Carleton, together with three provincial appointees and twenty-two "non-accredited" members at large. Work of the Authority is directed by an Executive Committee of twelve, six of whom chair Advisory Committees on such major concerns as Conservation Areas, Fish and Wildlife, and Reforestation and Land Use.

The Chairman this year is Patrick McManus of Portland, previous Chairmen having been Howard Henry and Frank Ayres of Ottawa. Olie Stirajs, a professional forester, is the Resources Manager and Mrs. W.I. Thompson, the Secretary-Treasurer, each supported by a relatively small staff. Financing is by proportional grants from each participating municipality, supplemented by a provincial grant, the annual budget being about \$1.5 million. This figure includes only minimal travel expenses for Board and Committee members, all their work being given voluntarily. It has been well said, by one in a position to know, that expenditures on and by the Conservation Authorities of Ontario represent the "best value for the dollar" of any public agency in Canada.

This judgement can be the better appreciated by even a glance at what the Authority has already done. From the point of view of the general public, its work on Flood Control is probably the most significant. Control dams have been constructed on tributary streams; flood plains have been mapped. Under the Conservation Authorities Act, each Authority has legal power to prohibit the placing of fill in floodways and to restrict the erection of structures in flood plains, both desirable control measures.

Of more direct interest to readers of *Trail & Landscape*, however, will be the progress that has been made in obtaining and developing Conservation Areas - all with a view to preserving and enhancing their natural state while making them available for public enjoyment. A total of well over 1,620 hectares (4,000 acres) has now been procured for public use in this way, ranging from the single hectare at Manotick to the 486 hectares at Mill Pond (south of Otter Lake, just off Highway 15) which contains "the finest maple bush" in Leeds County, the area originally procured at the suggestion of naturalists.

Headquarters of the Authority are at Manotick, in the renovated original Dickinson House opposite Watson's Mill. This is

# RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SCALE 1:50,000

SCALE 1:100,000

## MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

### TOWNS

KEMPTVILLE  
PERTH  
SMITHS FALLS

### VILLAGES

MERRICKVILLE  
WESTPORT

### TOWNSHIPS

AUGUSTA  
BASTARD & SOUTH  
BURNESS  
BATHURST  
BEDFORD  
ORLIMOND  
ELIZABETH TOWN  
HINCHINBROOKE  
KENNEBEC  
KITLEY  
MONTAGUE  
MOUNTAIN

NORTH BURGESS  
NORTH CROSBY  
NORTH ELMLEY  
OLDEN  
OSO  
ONFORD-ON RIDEAU  
REAR OF YONGE &  
ESCOTT  
SOUTH CROSBY  
SOUTH ELMLEY  
SOUTH BOWEN  
SOUTH-SHEAR BROOKE  
WOLFORD

AND  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING

### CITIES

GLoucester  
KANSATA  
NEPEAN  
OTTAWA  
VANIER

### TOWNSHIPS

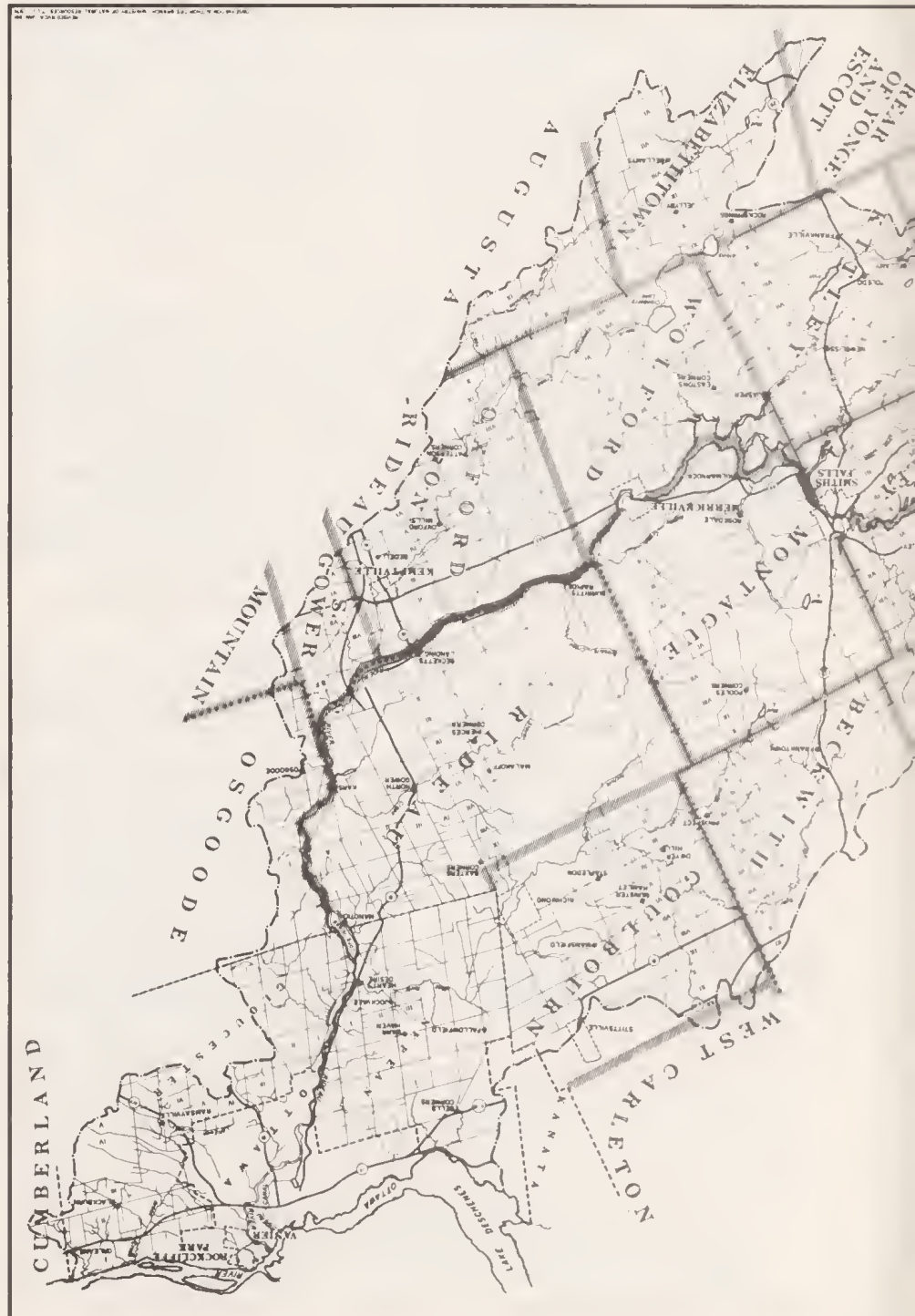
GOUX BOURN  
OSPODGE  
RIDEAU  
WEST CARLETON

### VILLAGE

ROCKLIFE PARK



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now owned by the Authority; it has been overhauled and is now again in partial operation so that mill-ground flour can be purchased there. (Tea served on the lawn on Sunday afternoons during summer months is a very civilised occasion.) At Perth, a Wildlife Reserve of 162 hectares has been established; this is already becoming well known, if only because of the increasing number of visits by school groups. Perhaps the most scenic of the Areas is that at Foley Mountain, adjacent to Westport, with an area of 243 hectares. A pleasing Interpretation Centre has been built, and nature trails have been developed with splendid views over Upper Rideau Lake.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation was formed to support the work of the Authority. Incorporated in 1971, the Foundation was established under the authority of the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario. Denis M. Coolican is the Chairman, assisted by ten members, some of whom are members of the Authority but some not now similarly active. The Foundation can receive gifts of land, money or artifacts, all of which will be applied to the further promotion of conservation in the Rideau Valley. All donations are tax-deductible, and all bequests of money, real estate or personal property are free of inheritance tax. Conservation is such an eminently desirable activity with such long-term public benefits, especially in our own river valley, that it is hoped that the Foundation will attract a steadily growing measure of support as the work of the Authority develops and becomes better known.

Much of the work of the Authority is naturally an investment for the future. Its reforestation programme, for example, reminds one of the old but wise tag that "one of the most beautiful sights in the world is an old man planting a tree". It is, therefore, greatly to be hoped that the value of its democratic and grass-roots character will always be recognized and respected by the Government of Ontario, that the work of the Authority will gain increasing public support, and that the associated Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation will steadily accumulate resources with which to ensure that "Our Valley" will gradually become a term widely used, as public enjoyment of its beauty and naturalists' delight in its fauna and flora grow with the years.

*On the preceding pages is a map of the 4000 sq. km area of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. It encompasses all the land drained by the Rideau River system north of the Rideau Canal locks at Newboro and also the area drained by the small streams flowing into the Ottawa River at Ottawa: Stillwater Creek, Pinecrest Creek, Green Creek and Bilberry Creek. The area extends 100 km from the headwaters in Frontenac County to the mouth at Rideau Falls on the Ottawa River. The historic Rideau Canal follows much of the Rideau River and then continues through the Rideau Lakes. It leaves the Rideau system at Newboro and follows the Cataraqui system to Lake Ontario.*



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# Ottawa Owl Count

March 6-29, 1981

Val Bernard Ladouceur

Nights in the country have always been special to me. I enjoy looking at the stars, the colour of trees as car headlights illuminate them, and the feelings of mystery - and sometimes adventure - which are aroused. I also enjoy the sounds - insects, frogs, whip-poor-wills, woodcocks, and so forth. There are very few of these in Ottawa in mid-March, but there are owls.

I'm sure that if a poll were taken among people with at least some knowledge of birds to find out which birds were their favourites, owls would rank first. This can be attributed, partially, to owls' strange and almost human appearance. As much as I like to see owls, I, personally, do not feel cheated when I just hear them. They really add to the atmosphere of the night.

This mystique concerning owls can also be attributed to the fact that they are nocturnal animals and less is known about them than about diurnal birds. This brings us to the purpose of the owl census, which is to find out more about owls.

The Ottawa Owl Census commenced at sunset March 6 and ended at midnight March 29. The area we covered (or, should I say, attempted to cover) was, as usual, within a circle of 50 km radius, the centre being the Peace Tower. For organizational purposes, the area was divided into four sections using the Ottawa, Gatineau and Rideau Rivers as boundaries. These areas were named Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast. Approximately 45 observers were out at least once, with more than 15 of them going out twice or more. Participants were required to bring topographical maps with them into the field and actually mark the owls on the map. They were to note if the bird was seen or heard (or both) and note the date. Eight species and 338 individual owls were located, and there were few in the birding community who weren't surprised at the results.

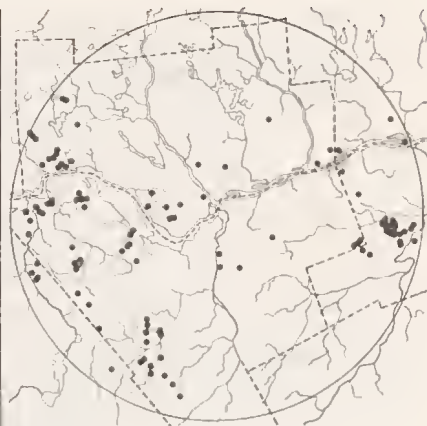
GREAT HORNED OWL - 129 individuals

This was actually a lot lower than I expected for what is, unquestionably, the most common predator in the Ottawa region. There have been nights in past years when approximately a hundred Great Horned Owls have been recorded in the Manotick, Richmond Swamp and Dwyer Hill region. Only about 25 were located in this area during the count period. I feel that if this area had been covered on more ideal nights (clear, bright moon and no wind) or





Great Horned Owl



Saw-whet Owl

if more pre-dawn owling had been done (when these owls are very active), the results would have been much better.

#### SAW-WHET OWL - 110 individuals

I felt that this would be the second most common owl, but I expected the final count to be less than half of this total. Saw-whet Owls are much easier to census than Great Horned Owls because of the nature of their calling. Great Horned Owls, while being quite vociferous, will often have long periods of silence, especially on a mediocre night. Therefore, if one stops his car for two minutes before moving on, a Great Horned can easily be missed. However, a Saw-whet Owl will often call for much of the night without a break.

The big question now is how many of these birds are breeding and how many are just passing through.

#### LONG-EARED OWL - 57 individuals

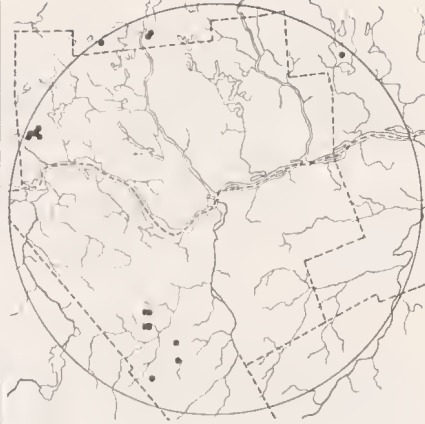
This is really an incredible total for what is supposedly a scarce bird in our region. Like Saw-whet Owls, if these birds are calling, they call constantly and aren't likely to be missed. Once again there is the question as to how many breed here. The answer will be very difficult to answer since one pair of Long-eared Owls was found to have already found a nesting site in mid-March while other Long-eared Owls don't even arrive until the second or third week of April.

#### BARRED OWL - 17 individuals

I was a little disappointed with this total. The problem is that these owls are sporadic callers. As an example, five trips were made to the Onslow area north of Quyon, and on four occasions no Barred Owls were located. However, 6 were located in less than 2 hours on the other occasion.



Long-eared Owl



Barred Owl



Short-eared Owl



Snowy Owl



Screech Owl



Boreal Owl

#### SHORT-EARED OWL - 11 individuals

The majority of these birds (9) were found in the vicinity of Uplands Airport. This owl species isn't that vocal, but it is somewhat diurnal and, therefore, isn't impossible to locate. Obviously the count isn't geared to the locating of this species since the bird is generally silent. The birds at the airport have been known to birders for years. The other two Short-eareds were flushed from fenceposts while driving through fields at night, indicating to us that there were many more around.

#### SNOWY OWL - 7 individuals

This is also a bird of the open country. Snowies do not breed here; they are diurnal, and very, very rarely do they make a sound. However, some of us do like to look for birds during the day, and 7 Snowy Owls were found in the process. The number probably would have been three or four times higher had there not been a very warm spell in February which sent many of these owls north.

#### SCREECH OWL - 4 individuals

The most temperamental voice of all, two of these birds were the well-known pair near Billing's Bridge, and they were seen and not heard. It is hard to believe that this intensive effort turned up but two calling Screech Owls and that a single, early-morning effort the long weekend in May had results which were as successful. The other two birds on the count were near the Airport, and the two in May were north of the town of Gatineau. Others have been reported from South March, Metcalfe, Cedarview Road, Aylmer, and so forth, but since they are nocturnal and call so sporadically (unless they really get the urge and then you can't shut them up), they are extremely difficult to locate.

#### BOREAL OWL - 2 individuals plus another possible one

The most exciting finds of the census, the bird north of Gatineau found by Bob Bracken was the first ever heard calling in the Ottawa area. The second bird was located in the Larose Forest area by Ian Jones and Mark Gawn. A *possible* third Boreal Owl was heard by Mike Runtz near Almonte, but he heard it only once. This seems to indicate that there may be some years when these birds breed in our area.

Owls which have been recorded in our area but which were not located during the count period include HAWK OWL (located earlier this winter and known to have bred once in our area), GREAT GRAY OWL (located earlier this winter and not known to have bred here), and BARN OWL (the rarest of all but actually has bred here - in 1980).

## AREAS COVERED WHICH HAD HIGH OWL CONCENTRATIONS

### Northwest

- (a) Area north of Quyon to Onslow, Quebec -  
Long-eared, Saw-whet, Barred, a few Great Horned
- (b) Area northwest of Aylmer below the Gatineau escarpment -  
Great Horned, Saw-whet, some Long-eared

### Northeast

- (a) Area north of the town of Gatineau, Quebec -  
Great Horned, a few Screech, Long-eared, Saw-whet, and  
one Boreal

### Southeast

- (a) Larose Forest Area, approximately south of Hammond, west of  
Bourget, north of Limoges and east of Vars -  
Saw-whet, Great Horned, Long-eared, and one Boreal
- (b) South of the Airport -  
Short-eared, a few Great Horned, Saw-whet, Screech

### Southwest

- (a) Manotick to Richmond Swamp to Dwyer Hill -  
Great Horned, Saw-whet, Long-eared, Barred
- (b) Shirley's Bay, South March, Constance Bay, Fitzroy -  
Great Horned, Saw-whet, a few Long-eared
- (c) Arnprior to Almonte and vicinity -  
Saw-whet, Great Horned

It is noteworthy that the Gatineau Hills produced extremely low numbers of owls. If you look at the maps, you will notice that most of the owls on the Quebec side are along the Ottawa River, south of the Gatineau escarpment. In my discussions, I have come to the conclusion (for now) that three factors contributed to this result:

- 1) the early date - perhaps many owls hadn't arrived there yet;
- 2) the inaccessibility of the area because there are few roads;
- 3) the extensive wooded areas and lack of fields, which translates into many places to live and nowhere to eat.

Next year there will be changes, but it will take time to sort out what has to be done. One thing we would like to do is have a couple of evening workshops on owl voices for members of the Club before the count. Once you know what to listen for, owls aren't that difficult to find if they are calling. This brings me to another point which applies if you don't enjoy spending hours out at night whether owls are calling or not. Try to pick a clear night with little wind, preferably in late March or early April. It also should be added that the brighter and fuller the moon is, the more owls you are likely to hear. Take all these factors into account and you will have a more rewarding "night life".

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# Columbia Silk Moth

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John Fowler

When Pam Hickman and I joined the butterfly interest group of the Club this past winter, we were most interested in help and information to improve our photography of butterflies and moths. We really didn't expect to get caught up in the search for rare species.

That's just what has happened. The species is the Columbia Silk Moth (*Hyalophora columbia*), which hasn't been recorded here since 1939. With rare beginner's luck, we were able to capture two fertilized females on only our third attempt. Some hundred progeny of these two females are, as this is written, munching away happily on Tamarack needles here in Ottawa. If all goes well, there will be good numbers of Columbia Silk Moths for more serious distribution study work next spring.

Columbia is one of our giant silk moths, very similar to the Cecropia Moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) although slightly smaller and more subdued in colour. Wingspan is up to 10 cm. Columbia seems to feed exclusively on Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) and is our only species of giant silk moth to feed on a conifer. It has an exclusively northern, Canadian zone distribution extending from Nova Scotia west through Ontario and the northeastern United States to southeastern Manitoba.

We got caught up in the search for Columbia innocently enough, at the first meeting of the OFNC butterfly interest group last winter. Looking for something interesting to do on a late winter weekend, we followed Dr. Don Lafontaine's suggestion that we don snowshoes and search the bare Tamarack trees for the gray-and-silver cocoons Columbias spin at the end of summer. These cocoons stay on the trees through the winter, and the adult moths emerge the following June. Our search provided fresh air and exercise but little else. It did spark an interest that seemed in need of satisfaction.

To help in the satisfaction we purchased the necessary hardware to operate a single-tube fluorescent fixture from the car cigarette lighter, along with an ultra-violet lamp tube. This equipment was meant essentially to attract other silk moths and night-flying creatures, as Columbia is reportedly difficult to attract to light. We did hope that one or two of the rare moths might appear. To increase the effectiveness we also included two caged, virgin female Cecropia moths, hatched from cocoons generously provided by another Club member, Jack Holliday. Columbia males are said to be strongly attracted to Cecropia fe-





*adult Columbia Silk Moth*

photo by Pam Hickman

males, and some natural hybridization may occur.

Our set-up attracted a dozen or more *Cecropia* males on each of several evenings in early June. No male *Columbias* appeared. That disappointment was a lot easier to accept, of course, with the capture of the two females which came to the light. Both these moths came to the light at the Long Swamp near Manion Corners, the same location that *Columbia* cocoons were last found in 1939 by Dr. T.N. Freeman of Agriculture Canada.

One of the females was turned over to Dr. Lafontaine at the Biosystematics Research Institute and the other female to Ross Layberry, OFNC's most enthusiastic amateur lepidopterist. Both females produced fertile eggs which have hatched. The larvae seem to be doing well. Rearing these creatures requires a lot of TLC, as well as the dedication needed to collect armloads of Tamarack branches two or three times a week.

Provided this effort comes to fruition and the larvae pupate, great plans will be made for June 1982. The chrysalises will be sexed and sorted, and several females will be reserved for what we hope will produce valuable information on both the present distribution and the possible population levels of *Columbia* in our area, and, of course, some photographs. In the excitement of all this, we forgot to take any of the adult moths this year.

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# Significant Natural Areas in Ottawa-Hull

Stewart E. Hamill

In 1977, staff of the Interpretation & Conservation Section of the National Capital Commission (NCC) was informed that some of the Commission's urban lands were being considered for use in a Regional rapid-transit system. As very little information on the natural resources of these areas was available, it was decided to do an inventory. On very short notice, Chuck Billington, with the assistance of Ted Tozer, carried out a detailed investigation which was published in the report entitled *Ecological Inventory of NCC Urban Corridors*.

These "urban corridors", originally acquired as parkway routes, are connecting strips of land running throughout the City of Ottawa. These areas have not been developed and are not likely to be developed for parkways in the near future. They have had little attention other than maintenance, such as mowing, since their acquisition. Contained within them are such natural areas as Britannia Woods, Pleasant Park Woods and McCarthy Woods. The goal of the inventory was to provide information to the planners in order that the rapid-transit system could be route around significant natural areas.

This inventory program was continued in 1979 with two more studies, one on the Commission's urban properties in Hull and the other on the remainder of NCC's Ottawa urban lands. These studies were carried out by Daniel Gagnon (*Inventaire des ressources naturelles des boisés de la région de Hull*) and by Loney Dickson and Stephen Darbyshire (*Biological Inventories of 23 Areas in the Ottawa Region*). All of these studies covered some lands not owned by the Commission.

The information from the three reports in this program, now the responsibility of the Conservation Section, Greenbelt Division, Property Branch, has been summarized on a map entitled *Significant Natural Areas in Ottawa-Hull*. It identified these areas on two levels of significance (primary and secondary) according to the author, and with a number which corresponds to a description in the appropriate report. The base map is the same as the 1976 map of Ottawa-Hull (no longer available) which shows NCC land ownership. This map is shown in very much reduced format on the following pages.

The information on this map and in these reports was not

intended to, nor can it be expected to, ensure the full future protection of these significant areas. Rather, it is being made available to planners and administrators to make them aware of what resources are present on these lands. What it says is, "Hey, before you build a road through that area, you should realize what you've got. Perhaps the road can be realigned or moved elsewhere". It is also an indication that an environmental impact assessment might be required before a development project can proceed.

For this purpose, the reports have been distributed among NCC staff and to Regional and city government planners. The results are already evident. A consultant's study for development of the Nepean portion of Ottawa Beach (the other half is owned by Ottawa) recommends a natural park with a minimum of installations, including trails and bird-watching towers; one of the three reports was used in that study as base information on bird use of the area. Within NCC, the map has been sent to District maintenance staff; discussions on how these properties should be managed are ongoing. The major recommendation being made is that regular maintenance activities, such as mowing, brushing and dead tree removal, be eliminated. At the same time, protective measures, such as fencing and regular patrol by conservation officers, are being increased. The new fence at Britannia is an example of a project which was carried out to protect that area; a reduction in the number of motorbikes using the Woods has resulted. Over the next few years, management plans for the most significant NCC areas will be prepared by student summer crews.

Another purpose of gathering and making available this information is to enlighten the general public, and naturalists in particular, to the wealth of natural areas available in Ottawa-Hull. (Several articles taken from the reports have already appeared in *Trail & Landscape*.) First, the areas are there to be visited, appreciated and enjoyed, but, second, they need your protection. They need protection from insensitive motorbikers, children with hatchets, dumpers, misdirected maintenance crews cutting underbrush, and unknowing developers. The map (four times bigger than the one shown here) and reports are available from me at the National Capital Commission, 161 Laurier Avenue West; the conservation officers and I can be reached by telephone at 992-4828.

I would appreciate receiving your reports of illegal activities, special discoveries and other happenings. Please note that a few of the natural areas are on private property.

*The author is Chief, Conservation Section, Greenbelt Division, Property Branch, National Capital Commission.*









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# Rare Bird Sightings by A.G. Kingston

Daniel F. Brunton

In a recent *Trail & Landscape* article (Brunton 1981) I summarized the extensive records of bird observations made by A.G. Kingston between 1889 and 1909. These records have since been deposited in the Public Archives of Canada to ensure their continued protection. A number of observations recorded in Kingston's notebooks are of particular significance and require more detailed evaluation than was possible in the first article. These include early sightings of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Evening Grosbeak, nesting Palm Warbler and (possibly) Yellow-headed Blackbird. Each is discussed below.

## BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

In his notebook entry for 26 May 1892, Kingston describes the following observation from "MacKay's Wood" (Rockcliffe):

*"Saw a bird which I believe to be a Blue-grey (sic) Gnatcatcher. Blue-grey above, grayish-white below, no wing marks. About size of a kinglet (being evidently smaller than a Black-throated Green Warbler which was on same tree)."*

Kingston would have known from the White and Scott (1881) list that this was considered to be a rare species in Ottawa, and he certainly seems to have been cautious in his description. The tiny size of the bird is evident from his notes and that, with the field marks he recorded, seems quite conclusive.

At the time, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was known from a single record " ... taken once by Mr. G.R. White previous to 1881" (Eifrig 1911). Lloyd (1923) reported that in retrospect White questioned his own record. (Apparently no specimen was kept.) Lloyd struck it from the list and excluded it as well from his (1944) revision of Ottawa birds. The first modern record for the species in the Ottawa District appears to be the individual observed by Don Smith, Ron Pittaway and others on an OFNC bird hike in the Central Experimental Farm Arboretum on 21 May 1963. It was recorded again near the intersection of the Eastern Parkway and Ogilvie Road by Anne and Gary Hanes (and subsequently others) on 10 May 1968.

Tozer and Richards (1974) suggest that this species may be extending its breeding range northward from extreme southern Ontario. Indeed, in recent years Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has been seen with increasing regularity, and it is now considered to be

occasional from April through to early October (OFNC 1979).

It appears, then, that the first Ottawa District record of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher dates from 1892 and not the early 1960s.

#### PALM WARBLER

It may come as a surprise to learn that the Palm Warbler (a species of northern bogs) has long been known to nest in the Ottawa District. It was first established as a breeding species here on 3 July 1890 when the famous naturalist W.E. Saunders collected an adult male and two juveniles at Mer Bleue (Lloyd 1923). Other breeding records, all from the Mer Bleue, include 11 June 1892 by W.E. Saunders (Lloyd 1923); 3 June 1904, 13 June 1909 and 5 August 1910 by C.W.G. Eifrig (Eifrig 1911); and 25 May 1908 and 6 July 1908 by C.H. Young (Lloyd 1944). In total, seven nesting records, all prior to 1912, are documented by specimens. To this total we can add another record, which constituted only the second Ottawa District breeding record at the time, by A.G. Kingston. In his notes for 13 June 1891 he writes:

*"To 'Mer Bleu' with F.A. Saunders and Fred Scott. Found Palm Warblers pretty common and took several. Found nest of this species with 5 young. Composed of twisted moss-stems and a little dried grass with a few of the birds own feathers in a bed of moss. Female quite bold and fully identified. Hairy Woodpeckers and Hermit Thrushes quite common. A Myrtle Warbler evidently had a nest near where we were but we could not find it."*

These observations are more significant than just constituting an early breeding record. We can see from Kingston's notes that Palm Warbler was a common species in the Mer Bleue at that time - later, on 16 June 1905, he reports seeing ten with C.W.G. Eifrig - and a frequent breeder. Rand (1944) in a study of the subspecies of Palm Warbler states that the Mer Bleue population was the westernmost breeding location for the Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*) in Canada. The Western Palm Warbler (*D. palmarum palmarum*) ranges extensively across boreal Canada but is, at best, a rare migrant in the Ottawa District.

Unfortunately, the Mer Bleue was severely damaged in the early 1940s. Lloyd (1944) noted that "Conditions ... have been much altered by drainage, the cutting of timber and practice-bombing by aircraft". It seems that Palm Warblers do not do well under aerial bombardment (!) as no evidence of breeding has been uncovered since that time. Recent studies in the Mer Bleue (for example, Ouellett 1976) have not recorded this species (nor Hermit Thrush nor Myrtle Warbler, which Kingston also observed).

Kingston's observations not only document an interesting early breeding record but also describe characteristics of a subspecies that appears to have been extirpated from Ottawa (and Ontario).

## EVENING GROSBEAK

This species is familiar to all who maintain bird feeders in the Ottawa District - the ubiquitous "Greedies" that seem to inhale sunflower seed! Such was not always the case. The Evening Grosbeak is actually a western species that was first recorded in Ontario only in 1889 and which subsequently spread across the province in a relatively few years (Godfrey 1968). The first Ottawa District record resulted from the much-heralded Muirhead collection of two birds at Rideau Hall on 30 March 1897. Eifrig (1911) refers to two birds that were shot near Rideau Hall on 12 March 1901 as constituting the first record, and these collections were cited with the 1897 record by Lloyd (1944) also. It seems that Eifrig confused the dates and that collections near Rideau Hall were made only in 1897. Further records describe "... the long stay of a flock ... from February 7 to May 15, 1909" (Eifrig 1911). Lloyd (1944) reports them next from the winters of 1912-1913, 1915-1916 and then apparently every winter thereafter. Evening Grosbeaks were first found nesting in the Ottawa District in the 1960s near Island Park Drive and in 1980 at Shirleys Bay (Brunton 1980). It is now considered to be an abundant winter resident and an uncommon to rare summer breeder in the District (OFNC 1979).

A.G. Kingston reports another early record, one which constitutes the second record at the time. In his notes for 14 May 1907 he reports the following sighting from "The Grove at the head of Pattersons Creek" (near Glebe and O'Connor Streets):

*"Two Evening Grosbeaks (male and female). This is my first sighting of this species but Mr. Groh has been observing them here for about two weeks past during which time there was a flock of about 20."*

Kingston had seen the Rideau Hall specimens at the National Museum in 1897, the day after they had been collected, and expressed a strong interest in seeing this "rare" species one day. Eight years later, it was he who documented the next record. The "Mr. Groh" he referred to in his notes is the late Herb Groh who is remembered fondly by so many present-day OFNC members.

## YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

On 17 April 1889 at "Powell's Grove" (Powell Avenue) Kingston observed a bird which he described as follows:

*"Saw a large blackbird which I have not been able to identify. About the length of a Robin (say 9"). All deep glossy black (without, apparently, any of the usual metallic reflections) except top and back of head a rich saffron-yellow or 'old gold' color. His actions and notes were precisely like those of a Rusty Blackbird. Bill if anything a little more conical and*

*finch-like."*

There is no direct evidence of just what Kingston thought this might be, but it matches the description of a male Yellow-headed Blackbird, except that the yellow area extends across the throat and chest in this species. His estimate of size is good - indeed, Peterson (1961) describes Yellow-headed Blackbird as "...a Robin-sized blackbird" - and to one unfamiliar with this species, its calls would probably seem more that of a Rusty Blackbird than any other local species. Its bill would certainly seem more massive than that of a Rusty Blackbird too. Although Kingston did not mention the large white wing patches that are clearly visible when a Yellow-headed Blackbird flies, he apparently did not see the bird in flight.

Although this species was not mentioned on the lists of Scott and White (1881) or Eifrig (1911), Kingston did list it as one of the possible species on his year list for 1891. His reason for doing so is unclear, unless he felt that the 1889 bird was, in fact, a Yellow-headed Blackbird. The first accepted record for the Ottawa District dates from 1 September 1971 when Steve O'Donnell observed a single bird near Fallowfield (Birds Committee Minutes, 26 November 1971).

The really curious aspect of all these records is why it took some ninety years for them to surface. Kingston was very involved with the Ornithology Group of The OFNC (Brunton 1981) and conducted field work and/or discussed sightings with the likes of Groh, Eifrig and the Saunders brothers. Yet only a few of his records (specimens at the National Museum of Canada) have appeared in subsequent literature. It appears that at least as far as his bird sightings went A.G. Kingston was a very private person. Then again, he may have subscribed to that view of birding that many modern-day birders share: "You have your list and I have mine".

#### *Acknowledgements*

My thanks to Gary Hanes, Monty Brigham, Bruce DiLabio, Don Smith and Loney Dickson for assistance in bringing together the materials and records related to this article.

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## Lichens of the Ottawa Region

by Irwin M. Brodo is a guide to the identification of the approximately 370 species of lichens presently known in the Ottawa District. These species are representative of most of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest region of southeastern Canada. This is the first handy guide to treat the crustose lichens as well as the foliose and fruticose lichens.

The work opens with a short general discussion of lichens as organisms, including pointers on their collection, preservation and study. Diagnostic keys to crustose, foliose and fruticose lichens follow. A glossary of special terms used in the keys is presented as an appendix, together with an index of the species covered. The keys and glossary are illustrated with 75 black-and-white drawings depicting many of the lichens and some of their microscopic features.

The National Museum of Natural Sciences has made *Lichens of the Ottawa Region* available, in English or in French, free of charge as an issue of the *Syllogus* series. You may obtain a copy from Nick Bélanger, Manager, Information Section, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa K1A 0M8 (telephone 996-3102). State the title and *Syllogus* No. 29 when ordering.

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# Ottawa Regional Science Fair

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Ken Taylor

Each year The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club presents a special award at the Ottawa Regional Science Fair. This fair is an exhibition of scientific projects, experiments, and collections produced by Ottawa area students in grades 7 to 13.

The Merivale Mall was the scene of the 20th Ottawa Regional Science Fair held April 10 and 11, 1981. The fair features 98 exhibits in the areas of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering.

Michael Mulvey, a student at St. Joseph's Junior High School, was selected as this year's OFNC prize winner for his exhibit "Extinct is Forever", which examined the plight of endangered species. Michael received a \$100 cash prize and a one-year subscription to *Trail & Landscape*.



*Michael Mulvey, shown here with Ken Taylor of the Club's Education and Publicity Committee, was this year's OFNC prize winner at the Ottawa Regional Science Fair.*

photo by Chris Schwarzkogler-Taylor

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# Brook Stickleback

A fish that builds a nest

Isabelle Nicol

In one of its natural habitats, our local ponds, the Brook Stickleback is one of our more engaging fish. Very active and quarrelsome, it prefers the densely vegetated areas of the pond, and being carnivorous, prefers its food live in the form of insect larvae, small crustaceans, worms, snails and insects.

This small fish, 5-6 cm in length, comes armed with five spines along the back just in front of the dorsal fin, thus the name "stickleback".

The most interesting aspect of this fish is its unique spawning ritual. While many other intriguing things are happening at the pond in the spring of the year, the male stickleback actually begins to build a nest, much like a bird.

Around the end of April, darkening in colour in preparation for the courtship ritual, he begins his nest. Working alone, he bites off bits of plant stems, grass and algae. Using a secretion from his kidneys which is spun out in fine sticky threads through an opening near his anal fin, he coats the plant bits, and by shaping the weedy material into a mound with his snout, cements the whole mass together. When finished, he wriggles through the mass creating a pocket in which the eggs will be laid. This tunnel-like structure is about the size of a walnut, has a round entrance, and is usually glued to an underwater stem close to the bottom of the pond.

Then he goes courting. By a series of nips, butts and nudges, he entices an egg-swollen female to the nest. When she enters the little circular door, the male prods her near the base of her tail and induces her to lay her eggs, which may number up to 300. While she is in the process of laying, the little male swims round and round outside in great excitement. If she does not leave the nest fast enough to suit him, he nips her, hastening her departure through the wall of the nest, literally. He may entice several females, one after the other, to lay their eggs in the same nest. After each female has done her job and departs, he enters the nest and scatters his fertilizing milt over the individual layers. When the nest is filled with as many eggs as he feels he can handle, he becomes hostile to other females in the area and keeps them away from the nest.



*Illustration by Laura Kingsbury*

His disposition, none too good at the best of times, worsens. He guards the eggs continuously, concerned that no other fish should nip in and eat them. He does this for the whole of the ten days or so it takes for them to hatch. If he has two nests, which is quite possible, he spends equal time guarding them both. He also aerates them by vigorously fanning his pectoral fins, setting up a steady current of water which not only ensures that they develop in well-oxygenated water, but also keeps them clean.

After all the eggs have hatched, he continues his care for the young, herding and protecting them. His instinct to protect is so great that as the fry mature and begin to wander, the frantic father may capture them in his mouth and "spit" them back into the nest. After a while, however, the job becomes futile when the youngsters begin to leave the nest in ever increasing numbers.

From the first to last, the male stickleback does all the work, except, of course, laying the eggs.

The males and females die within six months of spawning. However, the following spring, those offspring which have survived the rigors of the pond, be it predation by other, larger fish, kingfishers or disease, will themselves repeat the fascinating spawning ritual of their parents.



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# Bus Trip to Presqu'île

Jacques Cantin

The fact that this is my first article for *Trail & Landscape* and that it was written more than two months after the fact should make for entertaining reading, to say the least. So I hope everyone concerned with this excursion won't be too critical of this report. I might have unintentionally left out some important details that will teach me to do my notes immediately after my outings. So, here goes!

The forecast for the day wasn't encouraging: cloudy with the odd chance of showers, 8°C as a maximum (although I doubt that it was anywhere near that, close to the lake). Even a double set of mittens didn't prove a worthwhile commodity against that wind. I had to share one pair with two ladies from the trip - one mitt each to hold their binoculars.

This year, the inland parts of the lake were all free of ice, not like last year when there was only the odd open area. The waterfowl were in good numbers, Scaups and Common Goldeneyes being the majority. The list of species included:

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Pied-billed Grebe - 6 | American Widgeon - 2   |
| Horned Grebe - 1      | Redhead - 10           |
| Whistling Swan - 1    | Ring-necked Duck - 2   |
| Mute Swan - 2         | Canvasback - 3         |
| Mallard - 20+         | Greater Scaup - 10+    |
| Pintail - 2           | Lesser Scaup - 40+     |
| Blue-winged Teal - ?  | Common Goldeneye - 30+ |
| Green-winged Teal - ? | Bufflehead - 10+       |
|                       | Oldsquaw - 30+         |

Other species included Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Pine Siskin.

For me the highlight of the trip was to see Oldsquaw in such numbers and in such a variety of plumage. It is so revitalizing after a long and quiet winter to observe such a variety and number of waterfowl; it gives one something to look forward to - the awakening of nature...SPRING!

Anyone who has not gone on this trip should make an effort next spring to come. It's a great outing and I'll be there again.

\* \* \*

DERBY HILL TRIP - After two outstanding years and one so-so year, the hawks just didn't show up this year when we were there. No doubt we will have better luck next time.

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# Trip to Harrington Nature Centre

Mark C. Sims

It was a beautiful spring day when the cars drove into the parking lot and people grouped around to wait for the bus. Yes, this was the start of the Harrington trip. It was a long ride down but most enjoyable. We arrived at our destination, the Harrington Nature Centre owned by the Canadian International Paper Company. (CIP).

The CIP has a 5600-hectare property which includes a 1.2 ha man-made lake. The lake is stocked with trout in an experiment that CIP is conducting. It is also growing disease-resistant trees that increase the company's productivity. CIP has a research station here which collects weather data for research purposes.

After taking in all this fascinating information, we found that it was time for lunch. People took advantage of this lovely area and sat under the breeze-rocked pines near the lake's edge. It was quite a hot day, and there was only one place cooler: the lookout platform on top of the mountain. So, off we set with sweat-sodden brows and binoculars in hand.

The walk to the platform was a great adventure. Half the group went up one side and the second half went up the other side of the mountain. I don't know if that helped our search, but we saw Upland Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Tree Swallows, Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows. Some of the more interesting warblers we saw were Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Black and White, Tennessee, Parula and Orange-crowned. It was a good day as about fifteen species of birds and fifteen species of flowers were spotted.

We got back from our afternoon of birding and said good-bye to the members of the Catharine Traill Naturalists' Club from Montreal who had joined us on this trip. Climbing onto the Dino-bus we set off for home. We would like to thank the Museum of Natural Sciences for the use of the bus. It was nice being able to watch the passing scenery without a steering wheel in hand. A great day of birding was enjoyed by all, and I hope we can do it again sometime.

\* \* \*

There will be an overnight outing to Harrington Nature Centre on September 5 and 6. Check *Coming Events* for details.

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## Plants for Man: Studies in Economic Botany

A course designed to study the growth, development and utilization of plants is to be offered this autumn at the Carleton University greenhouses (ELBA). Plant pests and diseases, and their detection and control or remedy will be studied as a part of the general theme of methods of successful plant propagation and culture. Beginning September 22, twelve weekly lecture sessions on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., will be supplemented with practical laboratory and greenhouse experimentation on nutrition and culture of plant materials each Saturday morning 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Two or three of the Saturday sessions will take the form of field trips.

One objective will be development of a fuller understanding of the ways in which plants, both wild and cultivated, enhance our lives and are utilized (or not) by mankind. Studies will focus not only on the major crops currently exploited, but also on the underutilized and wild plant resources of the world as well as the necessity for preservation of the genetic diversity essential to perceived future requirements in plant breeding.

The course will be co-ordinated by Bill Illman and will feature guest lecturers expert in their specialities. For further information, contact Regina Aulinskas in Continuing Education at Carleton University, telephone number 231-6660.

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## Fruit-bearing Shrubs for Members?

Jim Wickware has made an interesting proposal to the Club. He suggests that he could donate a certain number of native fruit-bearing shrubs that provide food for birds to the Club which in turn would be sold to members. The proceeds would be long to the Club.

For a start Jim suggests that Highbush-cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americana*) be selected as the shrub choice. Bushes started this summer would be available in the autumn of 1983 as two-year plants. If this trial is successful, a different species of shrub would be selected each year for the life of the project.

A show of interest to Jim would obviously be useful. Club members who foresee wanting one or more fruit-bearing shrubs should advise Bill Gummer at 596-1148 (home) or 995-5909 (work).

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# National Museum Activities

The National Museum of Natural Sciences has succeeded in arranging an exhibit of more than fifty paintings by the Canadian artist and naturalist Robert Bateman. To be held from September 9 to November 29, the exhibit will highlight the Museum's autumn activities and will subsequently proceed on a major Canadian tour. In conjunction with this exhibit Mr. Bateman will be there in person on two evenings for slide talks in the auditorium:

Wednesday, September 9 at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7, at 8 p.m.

At these talks there will be simultaneous French translation as well as interpretation for those with impaired hearing.

[Note that Robert Bateman will be giving a special presentation to the members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club on Thursday, October 8. See *Coming Events* for further details.]

Quebec City artist Hjislain Lefebvre will be discussing watercolour painting of wildflowers in workshops running from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 17 (French) and Sunday, October 18 (English). Slide shows will introduce these workshops. Pre-registration is required for participation in "Wildflower Water-colours", to a limit of 40 people. To register, call 593-4722 after 9 a.m. on Monday, September 28.

Dinobus field trips for the "Images of the Wild" series will take place. Registration begins Monday at 9 a.m. two weeks prior to each field trip, with a maximum of 34 participants; register by calling 995-9060. Appropriate footwear and clothing are a must. Trips last from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The trips are as follows:

## English

Saturday, September 19  
*Nature Drawing: a tool for  
learning*  
Ottawa/Hull area

Sunday, October 4  
*Colours in Nature*  
Shaw Woods near Eganville

Saturday, October 31  
*Nature Photography*  
Ottawa/Hull area

## French

Dimanche le 20 septembre  
*Le dessin: un outil pour  
apprendre à connaître la  
nature*  
la région de la capitale  
nationale

Samedi le 3 octobre  
*Les couleurs dans la nature*  
les Shaw Woods près d'  
Eganville

Dimanche le 1 novembre  
*Photos dans la nature*  
la région de la capitale  
nationale



# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee  
Frank Bell (521-8046), Chairman

*All times stated for excursions and walks are departure or starting times. Please plan to arrive ten minutes early to avoid being left behind; leaders start promptly. Members arriving on foot or by bus at meeting places for excursions can usually obtain rides with other members going by car. (Mention to the leader that you require a ride if none has been offered.)*

## WEST END BIRD WALKS TO SEE BIRDS IN FALL MIGRATION

| <u>Date and Time</u>                | <u>Leader</u>           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday, 13 September<br>6:45 a.m.   | Wright Smith (225-1811) |
| Saturday, 26 September<br>7:00 a.m. | Jim Harris (225-2176)   |
| Saturday, 3 October<br>7:30 a.m.    | to be announced         |

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue. Bring waterproof footwear and binoculars.

Saturday & OVERNIGHT OUTING TO HARRINGTON NATURE CENTRE  
Sunday Leaders: Father Potvin and others  
5-6 Sept. Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences,

Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, at main entrance.

Times: Leave - 8:00 a.m., 5 September  
Return - afternoon, 6 September

Cost: \$12.00, including meals Saturday evening and Sunday morning and noon. (Take your own Saturday lunch.)

This is a general outing with an emphasis on mushrooms. We will be joined by members of the Catharine Traill Club. Since only a limited number of participants can be accepted, it is necessary to pre-register on a first-come basis. To register, telephone after 10 a.m. Ellaine Dickson (722-3050) immediately on reading this announcement, as meal arrangements must be made, and follow up by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell

Avenue, Ottawa K2A 0P7, at least one week in advance of the trip. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the trip. For further information and also about the possibility of staying there Friday and/or Sunday nights on your own, telephone 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.).

Saturday      ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO FITZROY PROVINCIAL PARK  
12 September   Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences  
                         Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, at main  
                         entrance

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Cost: none

The park has a variety of habitats and is thus rich in bird life and interesting and unusual plants including mushrooms. Although the forest is, for the most part, a young one, there are ancient Bur Oak, 200-year-old White Pine, and mature Basswood. The natural riverside terraces reveal how the level of the Ottawa River dropped in stages after the last ice age. This year there will again be cheddar cheese and apples to augment the participants' picnic lunches. There are swimming facilities. To register, telephone 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.) at least one week in advance of the trip. Acceptance will be on a first-come basis.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Tuesday      | OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  |
| 15 September | MEMBERS' NIGHT  |
|              | Meet: Salon, National Museum of Natural Sciences<br>Metcalfe and McLeod Streets   |
|              | Time: 8:00 p.m.   |
|              | An informal get-together to see and hear about members' special interests and experiences, there will be reports on the summer activities of the recently set up special interest groups, and a members' slide show. Those members who would like to display slides should register first with Eileen Evans (741-0789, evenings) before 31 August, or Peter Hall (733-0698, evenings) from 1 September to 15 September. |

Sunday      MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP  
20 September   Time: 9:00 a.m.  
                         Jim Ginns of Agriculture Canada will again be principal leader. Since only 25 can be accepted, participants must pre-register on a first-come basis. To register and obtain further details, telephone 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.).

Monday  
28 September      BIRDING WITH GEORGE  
Leader: George McGee  
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
A visit to Shirleys Bay for the retired and not-so-tired to see birds in fall migration. Bring a thermos of hot soup; pink lemonade may be available.

Sunday  
4 October      FOURTH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB  
Meet: West End Shoppers City  
Baseline Road and Woodroffe Avenue near Woodroffe Avenue exit  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
This is Ontario Hiking Day, and a hike is planned on the Rideau Trail through Murphy's Point Provincial Park on Big Rideau Lake where interesting wildflowers and geographical formations can be seen. Don't forget to bring a lunch.  
For information, call Dorice Joyce (829-9130) or Eileen Evans (741-0789).

Thursday  
8 October      OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
BATEMAN'S BACKYARD  
(An artist-naturalist's view of the world around us)  
Speaker: Robert Bateman  
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences  
McLeod and Metcalfe Streets  
Time: 8:00 p.m.  
The OFNC is extremely fortunate to have Robert Bateman, the internationally renowned artist, as a guest speaker. He will be exploring the oft-ignored but fascinating world of our own "backyards". We need not travel to exotic, far-away places to see startling and spectacular sights. We need only to look again at the shapes, colours and textures of the supposedly mundane and familiar natural subjects near at hand. The intricate and marvelous ways of ordinary creatures can provide a whole new insight into nature.  
In this program, we see something of the naturalist in Bob Bateman which is in no small measure a part of his great success as an artist. The evening before this, Bob will be speaking about his art at a public lecture at the Museum. Tonight he speaks as one naturalist to others. It should be memorable!

Saturday      BAXTER CONSERVATION AREA  
17 October    Leaders:   Leanne Kane (489-3592)  
                     Frank Bell (521-8046)  
Meet:    9:00 a.m. at the National Museum of Natural  
                     Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, at the  
                     main entrance, or  
                     9:45 a.m. at the Baxter Interpretation Centre  
This is a general interest outing at the 66-hectare  
facility of the Rideau Conservation Authority.  
Habitats are varied and include mature maple-hemlock  
forest, cedar bush, alder thicket, marsh with board-  
walk and foot-bridge, and open field. Bring a lunch  
for this all-day outing, and some favourite slides if  
the weather is not suitable for the outdoors.

Saturday      BIRDING AT SHIRLEYS BAY  
24 October    Leader:   Steve O'Donnell (722-3605)  
Meet:    Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue  
Time:    8:00 a.m.  
Waterfowl are the main objective at this time of the  
year. In addition to the dyke to Haycock Island, we  
will visit the ponds west of the Connaught Rifle  
Range, through the courtesy of the Ottawa Duck Club.  
Bring waterproof footwear and binoculars.

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## Typists: Please lend us a hand!

The *Trail & Landscape* typing team needs additional help in preparing the camera-ready copy. If you can use an IBM Selectric typewriter and can spare one evening every several months, please join us in the satisfying task of getting *T&L* out to the members.

Call Dorothy Greene at 829-8231, evenings, for further details.

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**DEADLINE:** *Material intended for the November-December issue must be in the Editor's hands before September 12.*



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